

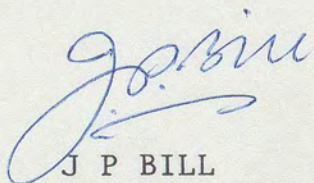
Mr Semple
Mr Hodges
Miss Pease (B&L)
Mr Coulson
Mr Knight

cc PS/PUS (B&L)

MESSAGE TO NIO/NICS STAFF

Please find attached a copy of the message to staff as agreed by PUS and Sir Kenneth.

I have asked Alan McVeigh to arrange distribution to NIO (HCS and NICS) in Northern Ireland and Hugh Moore to do likewise for Northern Ireland Departments. John McKervill is taking care of NIO(L).



J P BILL
PS/Sir Kenneth Bloomfield

23 September 1988

5826

MESSAGE TO NIO AND NICS STAFF

Recent actions and statements by the Provisional IRA underline the need for civil servants to be alert at all times to the measures they can take for their own protection.

The Secretary of State at the political level and we, as the senior management of the NIO and the Northern Ireland Departments, are conscious of the understandable concern of staff and their families in the light of the recent threats. You can be assured that the best possible police and other advice has been and will continue to be taken about what should be done.

All civil servants working in Northern Ireland are at risk to some extent but the assessment is that the risk to the great majority has not changed significantly. But this assessment offers no grounds for complacency.

Circulars on precautionary measures are issued and reissued at intervals by NICS and NIO. It is important that all staff should familiarise themselves with the terms of the latest guidance and act in accordance with it. Further guidance is being prepared and will be issued shortly.

However a few staff have already been identified as being obviously at risk and they have been contacted. In these cases, appropriate measures have been or are being taken. In addition within NIO and NI Departments, Establishment Officers have been asked to identify as a matter of urgency those staff who they feel might be under increased risk or more vulnerable to attack for whatever reason. These cases will be assessed and, where appropriate, staff will be advised of any further steps which they should take or which Departments will be taking to reduce this risk.

Threats to those with responsibilities to the public are not new, and the best response to them is the continuing discharge of those responsibilities in a spirit of vigilant alertness. Establishment Divisions in Departments will be ready to discuss particular concerns with individual officers at any time.

You are doing essential work, the importance of which is fully appreciated not only by your own management but in the wider community.

J.B.

JOHN BLELLOCH

K.P. Bloomfield

K P BLOOMFIELD

23 September 1988